## Claims

- 1. A guard device which is removably mounted on an escalator handrail, the guard device comprising:
- a guide channel formed at its bottom to receive a part of the handrail positioned in the entry zone of the escalator.

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- 2. The guard device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a sterilization unit provided therein, to sterilize the handrail received in the guide channel.
- 3. The guard device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the sterilization unit includes at least one ultraviolet lamp to irradiate ultraviolet lights to the handrail.
  - 4. The guard device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the sterilization unit includes an applying means to apply bactericidal liquid to the handrail.
  - 5. The guard device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an advertising display provided on a front face thereof to face forward.
- 6. The guard device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the advertising display includes any one selected from a group consisting of an LED, an LCD, an organic EL sheet and a hologram.
  - 7. The guard device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the advertising display is covered with a transparent sheet to protect the display surface of the advertising display against an environment.
    - 8. The guard device as set forth in claim 2 or 5, further comprising an aircleaning unit provided at a side wall thereof to draw air in the entry zone of the

escalator, eliminate bacteria and dust from the air, and discharge the cleaned air outside the guard device.

9. The guard device as set forth in claim 2 or 5, wherein the guard device has a length corresponding to a distance between a front end of the handrail and a front edge of the foremost step of the escalator.

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